As the relative of many American citizens and as a citizen of the world I am very dismayed at the idea of walmart entering the banking business. I thought the US democracy was based on the need for checks and balances against the concentration of power in a few hands. What we see today is the ruthless pursuit of cheques and big bank balances for the few. Not a spirit of what is best for the many including the health of our planet. I no longer believe that big insensitive greedy style capitalism is compatible with a true democracy; for the people and by the people. It is what can we (the corporations) get the people 'to buy' both in cheap goods and acceptance of advertising propaganda. Watching the rise of huge corporations that dominate world economies and political power over my life time has been a sad view of the death of hope for care, compassion and enlightened moral awareness in our time.

Lesley Fitzpatrick